

Executive Director Report
November 29, 2007

Budget

- Received \$6,300 from County of Sacramento Water Agency for Strategic Plan implementation pursuant to Commission action on September 27, 2007.
- Received in-kind contribution of access to the Natural Diversity Data Base from Department of Fish and Game for use in developing maps and data for the agricultural easement program.
- Received award of grant from U. S. Department of Interior, National Park Service for consultation services by the Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program for planning of The Great California Delta Trail.
- Contract processing underway for implementation of grant awarded for Lower Yolo Bypass Collaborative (\$14,750 to DPC as co-partner with Yolo Basin Foundation).
- Revision of application for Working Landscapes grant (awarded if revised) under committee review (\$45,000 to DPC as co-partner with Ducks Unlimited, The Nature Conservancy and Hart Restoration).
- Cal Trans community based planning grants are being pursued, for the Delta Trail planning process, in conjunction with local transportation planning agencies

Administration/Staffing

- Submitted new letterhead design to State Office of Printing. The design includes notation of entities represented on the Commission.
- Clerical position interviews are underway pursuant to successful recruitment.
- Staff attended the State Information Officers annual training session which had an emphasis on public outreach through video and website resources.
- GIS graduate student intern position, currently held by Alex Westhoff, has been reduced to 10 hours per month for the school year.
- A replacement for graduate student intern position left vacant upon departure of Holly Dabral to return to school is being recruited.

Legislation

- Senate Bill 669 (Torlakson) Continuous Regional Recreation Corridors (Funding) was vetoed by the Governor (Commission had adopted a position of support).
- Senate Bill 555 (Machado) Amendment of statutory power of Commission Executive Director was vetoed by the Governor (Commission had adopted a neutral position).
- Two legislative concept proposals have been submitted to the Resources Agency for consideration: one providing for Commission member alternates; and one providing for the addition of a Transportation representative on the Commission.
- Met with Assemblywoman Lois Wolk to provide an update on Commission activities and explore opportunities for enhancement.
- Met with staff of Senator Leland Yee to discuss opportunities to link proposed Chinese Culture and Commerce Center in Sacramento Rail Yard area with Delta cultural communities via the Delta Trail.

Projects/Facilitation

- The DPC-facilitated Delta Emergency Planning and Response coordination effort is progressing. Meetings of the partners (DWR, OES, and CCP) have been held to establish tasks, timeframes, and deliverables.
- Continuing to facilitate Ag Easement Program development discussions. Representatives of Delta HCP/NCCP programs were invited to attend the most recent meeting. Future meetings will include county planners, county ag commissioners, and landowners.
- Facilitating meetings of the Delta Resource Conservation and Development Council. Staff is serving on a sub-committee to assist in writing an updated competitive application to the Natural Resource Conservation Service for formal approval of the Delta RC&D which will allow for funding, including staffing.
- Participated in the Northern California Habitat Conservation Planners workshop which provided information to be utilized in Ag Easement Program development discussions.
- Continuing efforts relative to the Delta Trail, including: distribution of an RFP for development of an outreach strategy; participation in meetings with potential planning and funding partners; and development of a list of potential funding sources.

- Staff is continuing to serve on the State Water Plan Update Plenary Design Committee and attended the October session to ensure the policies of the Management Plan are included in the comprehensive list of agency plans covering the Delta.
- Providing input on the Delta Vision process through participation in weekly Delta Vision staff team meetings, and attendance of Blue Ribbon Task Force (TF) meetings. Provided summary of Commission emergency planning and response efforts to the Task Force through testimony and through comments on the context memo.
- Initiated discussions with the Center for Collaborative Policy relative to developing a plan for update of the Management Plan.
- Participating in Resource Agency biweekly meetings on climate change.
- Staff participated in the Fish Mercury Project Forum 2007 sponsored by the Sierra Health Foundation.

Public Affairs/Outreach

- Participated in the State of the San Francisco Estuary Conference by making a presentation on the convergence of urban and rural land uses in the Delta. Also submitted a poster for exhibit describing the DPC facilitated development of an ag easement program.
- Participated, as a speaker, in the unveiling ceremony of the Locke Community Monument.
- Made Presentation to the Solano County Board of Supervisors about projects and processes underway in the Delta, why local governments should be involved, and avenues for communication and input.
- Working with Water Education Foundation toward development of a plan for Delta branding and educational outreach.
- Attended the Contra Costa County Watershed Symposium.
- Attended the 2007 Governor's Environmental and Economic Leadership Awards Recognition Ceremony.
- Participated in Secretary for Resources meeting of Resource Agency directors.
- Participated in weekly meetings of the Resources Agency Public Information Officers Team.